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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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For Immediate Release

1983 RAIL TRAFFIC INCREASES

WASHINGTON, January 6, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during 1983 totaled an estimated 825.5 billion ton-miles, 3.5 percent higher than 1982, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The increase over 1982's depressed level was due to sharp gains in the second half of the year, when railroad performance reflected -- and in some cases surpassed -- growth in the economy. Traffic levels in 1983 exceeded 1982 for 28 consecutive weeks beginning with the week ended June 18.

Ton-mile figures trailed 1982 levels by 5.4 percent in the first quarter of 1983 and by 2.0 percent in the second quarter. However, in the third quarter ton-miles increased by 10.7 percent over the previous year's traffic and preliminary fourth quarter data indicate an 11.9 percent gain over the comparable period of 1982. For the year, ton-miles were up 3.3 percent in the South and 4.9 percent in the West, but were virtually the same as 1982 in the East.

Carloadings for the year totaled 18,800,172, up 1.6 percent from 1982. The greater increase in ton-miles than in carloadings stemmed from a continuation of a long-term trend toward the retirement of smaller cars -- with the resulting increases in average load per car -- and longer average hauls.

Twelve of the 21 major commodity groups were up from 1982, and even where decreases were reported, the year-to-year declines were

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significantly less than they were for six months 1983 vs. six months 1982. Five of the groups posted double-digit increases in 1983, led by motor vehicles and equipment, up 21.6 percent, and lumber and wood products, up 19.4 percent. Grain loadings for the year increased by 9.0 percent, but coal traffic showed a 7.4 percent decline.

Ton-miles for the holiday week ended December 31 totaled 10.9 billion, 4.8 percent below the corresponding non-holiday week of 1982. Carloadings were down 0.7 percent from last year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 24 totaled 43,456 cars, up 37.9 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 79,388 trailers and/or containers, 43.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 51 weeks of the year was 2,307,509 cars, 21.9 percent higher than the previous year, and 4,019,966 trailers and/or containers, up 20.1 percent.

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/31/83:

	Loadings in Week ended December 31, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,370	I	3,388	20.0	D	2,024	9.0
Other farm products	2,895	D	953	24.8	D	325	10.1
Metallic ores	9,358	D	309	3.2	D	2,417	20.5
Coal	56,262	D	4,785	7.8	D	27,144	32.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	4,315	D	919	17.6	D	2,564	37.3
Nonmetallic minerals	8,377	D	666	7.4	D	1,969	19.0
Grain mill products	8,253	D	1,791	17.8	D	2,127	20.5
Food and kindred products	7,335	D	2,596	26.1	D	2,352	24.3
Primary forest products	7,186	D	2,209	23.5	D	4,064	36.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	4,466	D	236	5.0	D	2,308	34.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	10,291	D	77	0.7	D	4,623	31.0
Chemicals and allied products	20,031	D	73	0.4	D	2,526	11.2
Petroleum products	3,667	D	294	7.4	D	874	19.2
Stone, clay and glass products	5,999	D	891	12.9	D	1,560	20.6
Coke	4,206	I	542	14.8	D	573	12.0
Metals and products	7,639	I	2,626	52.4	D	608	7.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	7,645	I	2,434	46.7	D	8,528	52.7
Waste and scrap materials	4,882	I	759	18.4	D	2,769	36.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,067	I	1,095	22.0	D	2,310	27.6
All other carloads	33,793	I	3,774	12.6	D	14,503	30.0
LCL traffic	126	D	389	75.5	D	74	37.0
Total Cars Loaded	233,163	D	1,570	0.7	D	86,242	27.0
Corresponding week of 1982	234,733						

	1983	1982	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (52 weeks)	18,800,172	18,498,165	I	1.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
51 weeks cumulative	814.6	786.3	I	3.6
Week ended December 31	10.9	11.5	D	4.8
52 weeks cumulative	825.5	797.8	I	3.5

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for 52 weeks of 1983 and 1982:

	1983	1982		Incr/Decr. 1983 vs. 1982	
	Cars	Cars		Cars	Percent
Grain	1,379,864	1,265,357	I	114,507	9.0
Other farm products	205,009	217,748	D	12,739	5.9
Metallic ores	823,569	814,872	I	8,697	1.1
Coal	5,210,459	5,628,723	D	418,264	7.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	503,360	475,487	I	27,873	5.9
Nonmetallic minerals	585,106	504,013	I	81,093	16.1
Grain mill products	593,047	619,242	D	26,195	4.2
Food and kindred products	605,876	681,137	D	75,261	11.0
Primary forest products	738,536	766,097	D	27,561	3.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	367,864	308,208	I	59,656	19.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	778,126	829,139	D	51,013	6.2
Chemicals and allied products	1,198,939	1,117,290	I	81,649	7.3
Petroleum products	239,126	243,746	D	4,620	1.9
Stone, clay and glass products	533,594	508,869	I	24,725	4.9
Coke	261,623	231,854	I	29,769	12.8
Metals and products	433,505	454,063	D	20,558	4.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	867,157	713,269	I	153,888	21.6
Waste and scrap materials	420,594	404,564	I	16,030	4.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	452,809	428,874	I	23,935	5.6
All other carloads	2,586,759	2,219,459	I	367,300	16.5
LCL traffic	15,250	66,154	D	50,904	76.9
Total Cars Loaded	18,800,172	18,498,165	I	302,007	1.6

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

	1983	1982	% Change	
First quarter	196.1	207.4	D	5.4
Second quarter	203.9	208.0	D	2.0
Third quarter	211.3	190.9	I	10.7
Fourth quarter	214.2 e	191.4	I	11.9
Year	825.5	797.8	I	3.5

e Estimated

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